

14 September 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] 25X1A

25X1A

I have been informed that [REDACTED] has been considered, from time to time, for employment by CIA. I understand that in the course of discussions concerning such employment, information has been submitted concerning [REDACTED] qualifications and 25X1A suitability for use in various capacities. It is my further understanding that there has been placed in his personnel file information of a most derogatory nature by two persons, one of whom by his own statement had casual intermittent contact with 25X1A [REDACTED] and no direct relationship to his work, and the other of whom stated he had limited experience with [REDACTED] and knows little of his contacts or past activities in Italy. 25X1A

Inasmuch as the information supplied is definitely damaging as far as employment is concerned both with CIA and any other agency to whom this information may be supplied, I wish to put my impressions on the record, particularly as the second informant has stated that all OSS colleagues of [REDACTED] will agree with 25X1A him, particularly [REDACTED] 25X1A

I have known [REDACTED] 25X1A for somewhere in the neighborhood of twenty-five or thirty years, and have known his family and many of his friends.

I had seen little of him in the early Forties; but on October 1, 1944, I arrived in Italy as Legal Officer for the Mediterranean Theater of OSS. I stayed there until 1 January 1945, and came back to Italy for two two-week periods in the Spring of 1945. 25X1A I saw [REDACTED] on several occasions; was informed by colleagues of his activities, and discussed his work and activities with him while in Florence where he was stationed. Since the war I have seen him from time to time both in Boston and in Washington where he comes for active service with Military Intelligence Reserve.

As a result of my association with [REDACTED] 25X1A I think there is no doubt that he is highly intelligent. I believe he is unusually well qualified for certain types of assignments, particularly those involving high level difficult negotiations. He has a thorough background knowledge of intelligence in most of its aspects, and in conversations I find his criticisms keen and on the whole constructive. His opinions are strong and have left considerable enmity towards him.

Thus he was originally recruited by OSS for SI work in Italy, to which place he was dispatched by [REDACTED] Chief of the

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Italian desk in Washington, to work with [REDACTED] the Italian SI chief in the field.

On reaching Italy shortly after landings in Salerno, he disputed bitterly with [REDACTED] the proposed plans for Italian SI and, in effect, refused to work with [REDACTED] under his concept of his operation. [REDACTED] was therefore transferred, as I recall, to SO and did liaison work with the Fifth and Eighth Armies in connection with agent operations through the lines.

I have heard him express himself strongly about all the activities of Italian SI as long as [REDACTED] was in charge, and I have also heard [REDACTED] and others of the Italian SI Section speak bitterly of [REDACTED]. On the whole I believe he performed his OSS duties in Italy capably, but this opinion is based mainly on discussions with his associates. However, I have reason to believe that [REDACTED] who was his Commanding Officer, Company D, in Sienna will support this opinion, and I have great confidence in [REDACTED] judgment. I believe [REDACTED] also thinks well of [REDACTED] capabilities when assigned to a suitable job. [REDACTED] speak highly of him and believe that Paterni is still in Washington at the Secret Service in the Treasury.

[REDACTED] was accused of snobishness in his Italian connections, and it is quite true that most of his family relationships and friendships were among the minor aristocracy and well-to-do landowners. I personally felt, however, that he was knowledgeable about all classes and seemed to be on friendly relationships with those he worked with. If there is a tendency towards snobishness, I do believe that it is such that it would not interfere with his work. I believe he is loyal to the United States, and his motivation is indicated by the fact that he has maintained his reserve position and active status performing regular tours of duty both before and after the war.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

cc: Chief, I+SS

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